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SHANA OH YOSHITSUNE

by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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Shana Oh Yoshitsune 74

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Chapter 74 The Enemy Warships Approach Hiraizumi

EVEN BY HORSE, IT TAKES A DAY TO REACH HIRAIZUMI FROM ISHINO-MAKI
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR THE ENEMY'S SHIPS?
IT'S THOSE LARGE SHIPS,
COMING UP THE RIVER.

IT'LL TAKE THEM A WHOLE FIVE DAYS!
フッ…
WE'LL MOBILIZE HIRAIZUMI'S ARMY BY THEN...
...AND AMBUSH THEM!
I WON'T ALLOW THEM...
TO TREAD ON HIRAIZUMI!!
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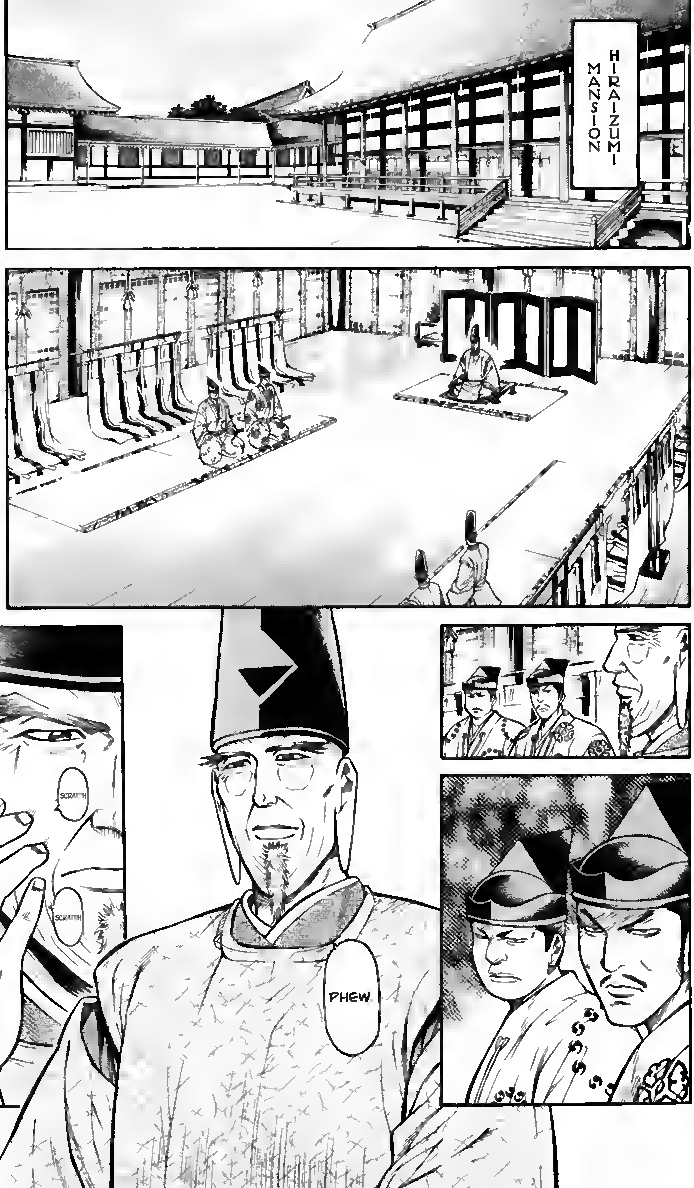

HIRAIZUMI MANSION
SIGHTH
SIGHTH
PHEW

I ASK THAT YOU NOT MOVE NEEDLESSLY...
MY FACE JUST ITCHES
HMM?
HIDEHIRA-DONO, WHAT SORT OF MOTION IS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW
...IF IT MIGHT BE SOME SIGNAL
.....

THERE AREN'T ANY CHANGES WITH HIDEHIRA-DONO, ARE THERE?
NO. HE IS BEING CLOSELY WATCHED
HEH HEH
After another five days, Hidehira will be done for.
A VAST REWARD WILL COME MY WAY!

HIRAIZUMI
AH?
OH, YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO
TSUGU-NOBU-DONO!
TADA-NOBU-DONO!

EH?
TROUBLE?
WE HAVE TROUBLE.
PERFECT TIMING, YOSHITSUNE-DONO
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
THE VICE-REGENT SUDDENLY BROUGHT SOLDIERS,
AND ACCUSED HIM.
HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S SUSPECTED OF INSURRECTION,
AND HE CAN'T MOBILIZE THE ARMY?
THE VICE-REGENT?

SO THE VICE-REGENT'S AN ACCOMPLICE, TOO!
YOSHI-TSUNE
IS THIS WHY THE ENEMY'S LEADER WENT TO TAGAJO?
THINK THAT
YOU ALSO...
TO HIRAIZUMI, BY BOAT?
THIS IS BAD THE ENEMY HAS TWO LARGE SHIPS,
AND ARE COMING UP THE KITAKA-MIGAWA.
WHAT?!

WE CAN'T REPORT THIS TO HIDEHIRA-SAMA OR MOBILIZE THE ARMY
WHAT CAN WE DO? IN THIS SITUATION,
.....
AT THIS RATE HIRAIZUMI WILL FALL...
...INTO THE ENEMY'S HANDS!
KASUMI-SAN!
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU LOOK PRETTY SERIOUS
KASUMI-SAN
FROM HERE ON OUT,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIRAIZUMI
PROTECT?
JUST IN CASE. AS BEST YOU CAN IS FINE
PLEASE
IF THERE IS AN UPHEAVAL IN THIS AREA,
PLEASE PROTECT THOSE CLOSE TO YOU.

ABOUT HOW MANY SOLDIERS DOES THE SATOU HOUSE HAVE NEARBY?
TSUGU-NOBU-DONO
...
EH,
AROUND FIFTY
THE ENEMY HAS ABOUT A HUNDRED
SO ABOUT HALF
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
...

IF IT'S COME TO THIS,
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO THIS WITHOUT HIDEHIRA-SAMA.
WE...
...WILL PROTECT HIRAIZUMI!
...
ALL RIGHT
OKAY, LET'S HURRY!
HOWEVER, YOU STAY IN THE MANSION, YOSHITSUNE-DONO
EH?

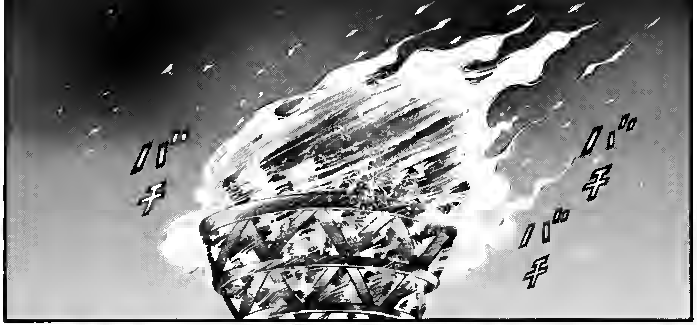
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! I'M GOING, TOO!
NO. THIS IS HIRAIZUMI'S PROBLEM
YOU ARE A GUEST OF HIRAIZUMI
I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO FACE ANY FURTHER DANGER
WHA—
We will not take assistance from outsiders!
!!!

TSUGU-
NOBU-
DONO.
TS-
LET'S GO,
TADANOBU
WHAT'S
WITH HIM?
ALL
OF A
SUDDEN
……

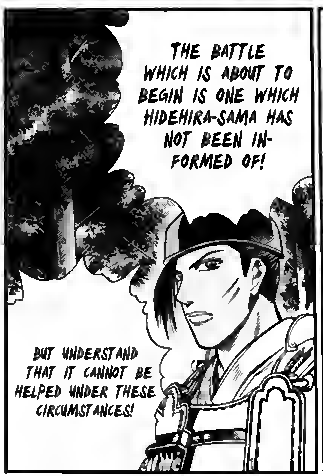
ISN'T THAT GOING TOO FAR?
IF I DON'T GO THAT FAR,
HE WON'T GIVE UP.
THAT MAN'S LIFE...
HIS LIGHT,
MUST NOT BE EXTINGUISHED HERE

THE PREPARA-TIONS ARE COMPLETE
GOOD, WE DEPART
HIRAIZUMI
SHALL FALL!
YES!

RUSTLE
RUSTLE



EVERYONE'S HERE, RIGHT?


THE BATTLE WHICH IS ABOUT TO BEGIN IS ONE WHICH HIDEHIRA-SAMA HAS NOT BEEN IN-FORMED OF!
BUT UNDERSTAND THAT IT CANNOT BE HELPED UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES!

YOU DID WELL IN COMING HERE PAST THE WATCHFUL EYES OF THE VICE-REGENT'S SOLDIERS!

WE WILL FOLLOW YOU, YOUNG MASTERS!
WE ARE VASSALS OF THE SATOU HOUSE! EVEN IF HIDEHIRA-SAMA TELLS US NOT TO GO,
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, TSUGI-NOBU-SAMA!
THAT'S RIGHT!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
YEAH!
NOW, WE WILL HEAD OUT BY LAND AND ATTACK THE ENEMY SHIPS!
CHARGE WITHOUT FEAR!
THANK YOU.

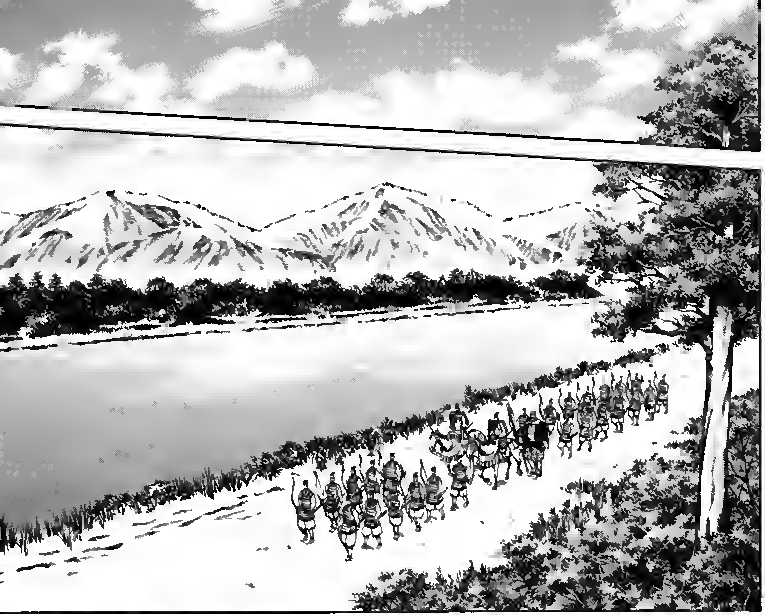
YEAH!

HMM?!

YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO?
WAIT, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!
WE'LL STICK FIRE ARROWS SO FAR UP THEIR ASSES...
...THAT THEY'RE GONNA FEEL THE BURN!

W-WHY ARE YOU HERE?
RIGHT NOW, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY ONE MORE SOLDIER,
YOU NEED THEM, RIGHT?
WE MAY BE OUTSIDERS, BUT WE'LL ADD TO YOUR NUMBERS.
SO I THOUGHT I'D HAVE THE SATOU HOUSE HIRE US!
OHH! TO THINK YOSHITSUNE-SAMA WOULD BECOME A VASSAL OF THE SATOU HOUSE!
WE WELCOME YOU, YOSHITSUNE-SAMA!
...

YOU'RE HOPELESS
...
I'LL JUST GO WITH YOU ANYWAY
EVEN IF I'M STILL A NUISANCE,
にっ

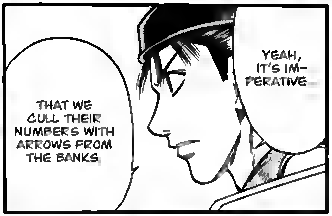


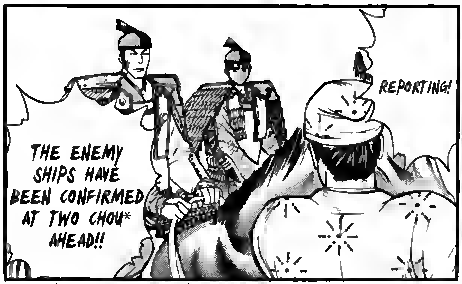
IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE WE LEFT HIRA-IZUMI...
WE'LL SEE THE SHIPS SOON

ナカロウ
ナカロウ

MM
THE SCOUT SHOULD SEE THEM RIGHT ABOUT NOW...

IF WE SHOOT FIRE ARROWS FROM BOTH SIDES, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO STOP THEM
SO THEY CAN'T MAKE SMALL TURNS OR ESCAPE ANYWHERE.
THE ENEMY HAS PRETTY LARGE SHIPS,

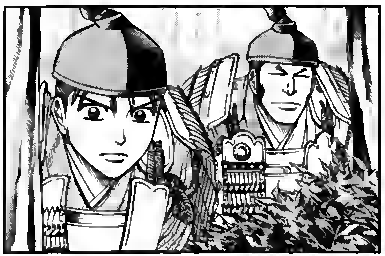


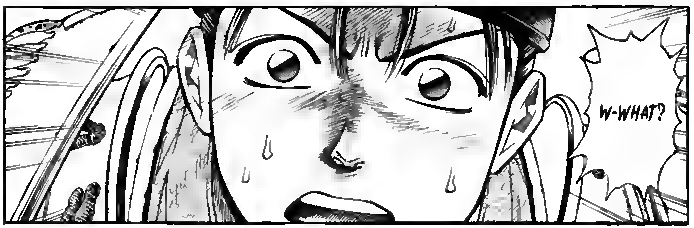


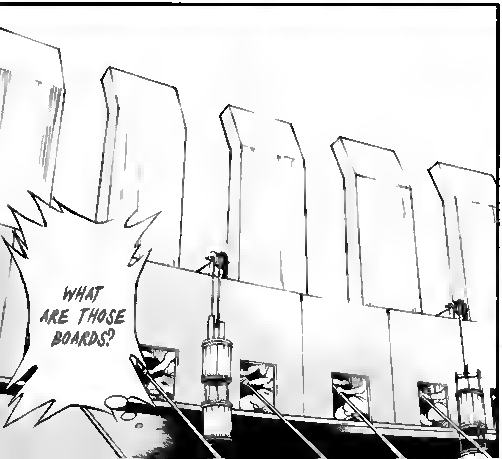
*T/N 1 chou ≈ 109 m ≈ 119 yd

SO THEY'RE HERE!
FIRE THE SIGNAL ARROW!
LET THE OTHER SIDE KNOW, TOO!
WHISTLE
THE SIGNAL ARROW
THEY'RE COMING. PREPARE THE ARROWS

THEY'RE HERE!




W-WHAT?


WHAT ARE THOSE BOARDS?

IT'S DIFFERENT FROM WHEN WE SAW IT BEFORE!

READY YOUR ARROWS!
FIRE!
!!

WHAT?!
ENEMY ATTACK!
WHO IS IT?!
TSUGUNOBU!

THEY'RE SHOOTING FIRE ARROWS FROM THE RIVER-BANKS!
WHAT?!

THEY'RE SOLDIERS OF THE SATOU BROTHERS
EH?
WHO IN THE WORLD IS IT?!
HIRAIZUMI'S ARMY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MOVE!

I BELIEVE WITH THE SOLDIERS NEAR HIRAIZUMI, THEY HAVE FIFTY AT MOST.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE SATOU BROTHERS ARE ACTING IN-DEPENDENTLY.
IF THIS WERE THEIR HOME IN SHINOBU, THEY WOULD HAVE OVER A THOUSAND SOLDIERS
BUT THEY WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE TIME TO CALL FOR THEM
THE SATOU BROTHERS?! HOW MANY SOLDIERS ARE THERE?

HANDLE IT ACCORDINGLY
YES!
THEY CAME TO CHALLENGE US?
FIFTY? WITH JUST FIFTY,
FOOLISH!
HEHE.
FIRE! KEEP FIRING!

HUH?
INCOMING ARROWS! BE CAREFUL!
DOOM DOOM
DOOM DOOM
FOR THE ARCHERS TO HIDE BEHIND!
SO THOSE BOARDS ARE SHIELDS...

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バシャ
バシャ
AND THEY HAVE PAILS TO DRAW WATER AT EACH ONE!
THE ARROWS CAN'T REACH FAR ENOUGH TO THE CENTER OF THE SHIPS BECAUSE OF THOSE BOARDS!
DAMN, IT'S NO GOOD!

ARGH!
!!
TSUGU-NOBU-DONO!
WE SHOULD RETREAT FOR NOW!
B-BUT!

IF THEY HIDE BEHIND THOSE SHIELDS, MOST OF THE ARROWS WE FIRE WILL MISS!
WE'LL BE THE ONES THAT ARE DONE FOR!
WE HAVE HALF THE SOLDIERS THEY DO!
WE CAN'T NEEDLESSLY SACRIFICE ANYONE HERE!
WE NEED TO THINK OF A NEW PLAN AND TRY AGAIN!

YES!
F-FALL BACK!
FIRE THE SIGNAL ARROW AND LET THE OTHER SIDE KNOW, TOO!
UGH!

TO THINK THAT WE'D BE COMPLETELY HELPLESS.
THEY'RE SHARPER THAN WE THOUGHT
THE SHIPS WILL REACH HIRAIZUMI IN THREE DAYS.
BUT WHAT DO WE DO?
.....
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
IF THEY ENTER HIRAI-ZUMI.....
IT'S OVER.

Water
Arrows
Ships
Shields
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME STRATEGY I HAVE TO THINK OF ONE!
LUMBER
WE NEED LUMBER!

WHAT WILL YOU USE THEM FOR?
LUMBER?
NO, WE NEED OVER FIFTY LOGS.
THIRTY...
YOU...
B-BUT, FIFTY LOGS IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR FIFTY SOLDIERS IN TWO DAYS
DON'T HAVE TO BE A SOLDIER TO CUT TREES

ゴゴゴ

...
HMM?
WHY DID YOU GO SO FAR FOR US?
BUT, YOSHITSUNE-DONO,
FIFTY TREES IN TWO DAYS? ARE YOU TRYING TO WORK US TO DEATH WITHOUT SLEEP?
CAN'T DO IT!
IN ORDER TO HAVE THESE TREES CUT, YOU WENT TO THE HEAD OF THE LOGGERS, AND
...

!!
PLEASE!
OSHU IS IN DANGER!
PLEASE!
HIRAIZUMI...
YOU, A NOBLE GENJI, LOWERED YOUR HEAD TO MAKE THAT REQUEST.
AND THAT'S NOT ALL.
. . . .
UHH...

INFLITRAT-ING ENEMY LINES...
...TO SAVE YASUHIRA-SAMA,
IT WAS THE SAME FOR EVERY ASPECT OF THIS TURBULENCE
CONVINCING US TO CHANGE HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S MIND,
AND THIS TIME...
...YOU'RE TRYING TO FIGHT THE ENEMY WITH THESE INFERIOR NUMBERS
NORMALLY, EVEN IF YOU ESCAPED TO SAFETY,
NO ONE WOULD CRITICIZE YOU
WHY GO SO FAR?

EH?
I LOVE IT HERE
I.
AND KNOWN AS YEZO?
THIS COUNTRYSIDE WHICH IS DESPISED,
THE SMELL, I LOVE IT ALL.
THE WIND,
THE PEOPLE,
THAN IN THE CAPITAL.
I LIKE IT HERE BETTER...

I FEEL LIKE IT'S MY HOMETOWN.
SO I WANT TO PROTECT IT
HOME-TOWN

I GUESS I'LL HELP OUT, TOO!
ALL RIGHT!
TO THINK THAT HE WOULD BE SO FOND OF THE LAND WE LIVE IN
IT'S FUNNY,
BUT IT KIND OF MAKES ME HAPPY.

YOU THINK THAT WAY BECAUSE YOU'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOSHITSUNE-DONO TOO, BROTHER...
HEH
PHEW!
I-I KNOW!
DON'T DROP IT ON YOUR FEET
OHH!

WE MANAGED TO GATHER THE LOGS
BUT THIS RELIEF IS ONLY TEMPORARY
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?
Some sort of clincher
We need a plan to demolish those ships!
AHH
OH?
YOSHITSUNE-DONO, YOU'RE SITTING ON BAMBOO. BE CAREFUL

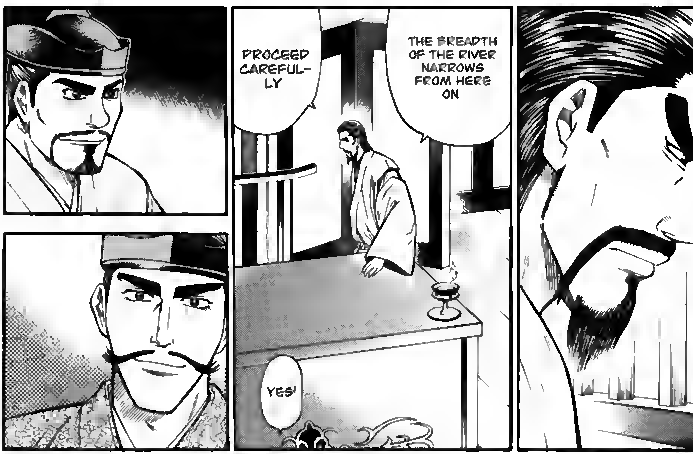
OWW!
YOU CAN'T TAKE THE BAMBOO'S FLEXIBILITY TOO LIGHTLY.
SEE, I TOLD YOU
...
THAT'S IT!

THERE'S...
...ONE MORE THING I WANT YOU TO MAKE FOR US!
HEY!
GUYS!
I NEED A FAVOR!
HUH?

THREE DAYS LATER
YEAH!
THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO STOP THOSE SHIPS!
IF WE MESS UP, THE ENEMY WILL REACH HIRAIZUMI TODAY
I'M COUNTING ON EVERYONE!

THEY'RE HERE!
IS TO BET ON THIS PLAN!
OUR ONLY OPTION...

THIS DAY HAS FINALLY COME
FATHER, TOMORROW IS FINALLY THE DAY
THAT HIRAIZUMI BECOMES OURS


PROCEED CAREFULLY
THE BREADTH OF THE RIVER NARROWS FROM HERE ON
YES!

NOW!
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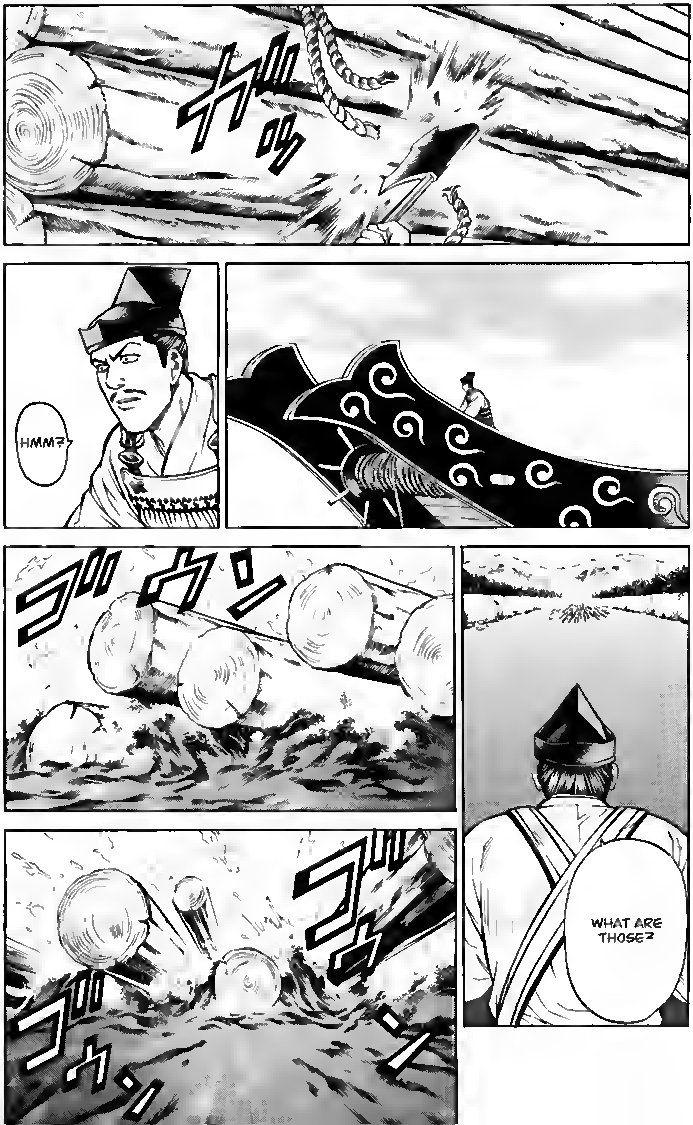

HMM?
WHAT ARE THOSE?

L-LOGS!

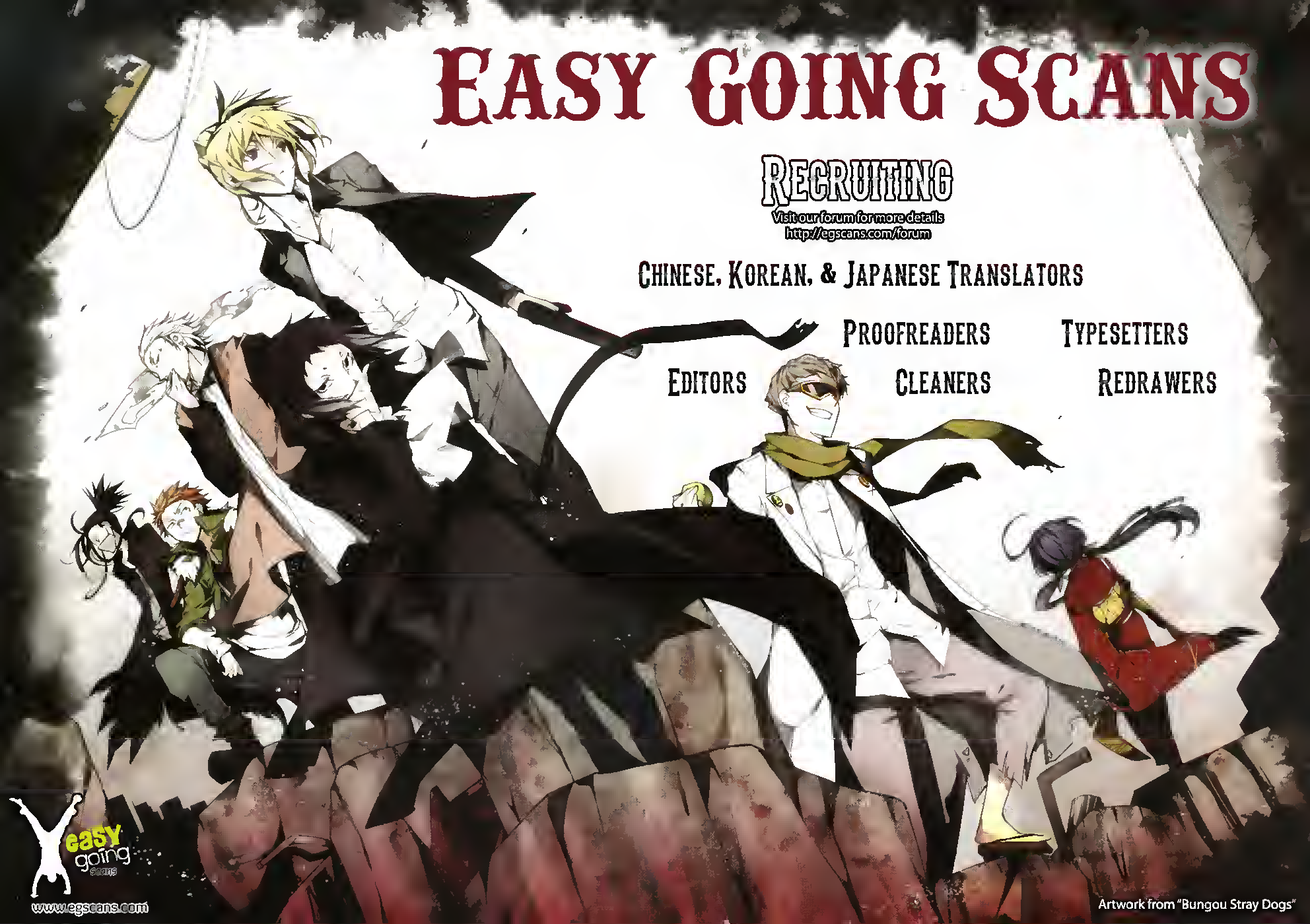
ドドドドッ
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WAH!

WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?
A LARGE NUMBERS OF LOGS HAVE FLOATED DOWNRIVER,
REPORTING!
AND HAVE STOPPED OUR ADVANCE!
NONE! THE SHIPS ARE FINE!
WE CAN MOVE FORWARD IF WE REMOVE THE LOGS!
HURRY AND REMOVE THEM
YES!
THOSE GUYS AGAIN?
HEHE, BECAUSE THEY ONLY HAVE A MEASLY FIFTY SOLDIERS,
THEY PROBABLY TRIED TO DESTROY THE SHIPS WITH LOGS
HAHAHAHA, THESE AREN'T EVEN RAPIDS!
THESE SHIPS WON'T BREAK FROM MERE LOGS!

ゴオオオ
EEK!
THE SHAKING IS WORSE THAN BEFORE!
W-WHAT'S THIS?!

DEPLOY THE SOLDIERS!
YES!

W-WHAT IS THIS?!!
GOOD!
COMMENCE THE GENERAL OFFENSIVE!
PULVERIZE THEM!
CHAPTER 74 END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